

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 02068 031833Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 IO-13 /039 W

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R 031616Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3159

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DEPT. PASS AID AND AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EEC

SUBJECT: US-EC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FOOD AID ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 42799, (B) EC BRUSSELS A-76, (C) EC BRUSSELS

A-78, (D) EC BRUSSELS A-451

1. EC COMMISSION FOOD AID OFFICIALS ARE DELIGHTED WITH US INVITATION TO HOLD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FOOD AID ISSUES IN WASHINGTON THIS SPRING. THEY TENTATIVELY AGREE WITH SUGGESTION TO KEEP AGENDA INFORMAL AND FLEXIBLE AND WITH SEVEN AGENDA POINTS SUGGESTED IN REF. A. THEY WOULD LIKE TO ADD A DISCUSSION OF MERITS OF FOOD AID SALES. AS INDICATED IN REF. C, EC COUNCIL FOOD AID GROUP IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING CONVERTING SOME EC GRANTS INTO LONG-TERM CREDIT SALES IN CASES IN WHICH RECIPIENTS ENJOY RELATIVELY HIGH PER CAPITA INCOME. EC OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS US EXPERIENCES OF OPERATING SIMILAR SALES PROGRAM. US PARTICIPANTS MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON REF. B IN DISCUSSING EMERGENCY AID AND DISASTER RELIEF AND REFS. C AND D IN DISCUSSING MEDIUM-TERM PLANS.

2. EC COMMISSION FOOD AID CHIEF, ADAM SZARF, TENTATIVELY PLANS TO ATTEND DISCUSSIONS ALONG WITH GERARD MOLINIER,  
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 02068 031833Z

WHO HEADS UP COMMISSION FOOD AID ALLOCATION AND EMERGENCY AID SECTION, AND ONE OTHER OFFICIAL WHO HANDLES UMRS. SZARF WANTS TO DISCUSS PARTICIPATION OF THIS LATTER OFFICIAL WITH COMMISSION AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE GENERAL BEFORE DECIDING ON WHETHER TO BRING ALONG OFFICIAL FROM BRUSSELS OR TO CALL UPON DELANGE OF WASHINGTON EC MISSION. IN ANY CASE, HE IS PREPARED

TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY UMR ISSUES, BUT AT THIS TIME SZARF IS RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN CSD MEETING SHOULD HE BE IN WASHINGTON AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. UNFORTUNATELY SZARF AND MOLINIER ARE TIED UP ON DATES SUGGESTED IN REF. A. SZARF APPRECIATES US EFFORTS TO ARRANGE DATES WHEN KEY US FOOD AID OFFICIALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE. BOTH DATES, HOWEVER, HAPPEN TO CONFLICT WITH KEY FOOD AID MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SZARF PROPOSES ANY TWO-DAY PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL 20-30. (THE REGULAR US-EC CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 20-21 IN BRUSSELS BUT SZARF WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THEM.) IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, MARCH 30-31 MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING OVER SOME OF THE DISCUSSION TO APRIL 1. EC OFFICIALS WOULD BE FLYING TO WASHINGTON NIGHT OF MARCH 20 AND CONSEQUENTLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BEGIN DISCUSSION EARLY ON MARCH 30.

4. MISSION IS CURRENTLY FORMALLY PROPOSING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FOOD AID MATTERS TO EC COMMISSION ALONG WITH PROPOSED AGENDA. WE ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD, BUT ABOVE PLANS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TENTATIVE UNTIL WE RECEIVE OFFICIAL REPLY. WE SHALL TRY TO EXPEDITE THIS.

5. MISSION APPRECIATES EXCELLENT EFFORTS OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO SCHEDULE INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN SUBSTANTIVE, WIDE-RANGING TALKS.  
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PAGE 03 EC BRU 02068 031833Z

6. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED WHICH TWO-DAY PERIOD FROM APRIL 20-30 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR FOOD AID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, OR, AS A FINAL ALTERNATIVE, WHETHER MARCH 30-31 AND POSSIBLY PART OF APRIL 1 WOULD BE FEASIBLE. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** EAID, US, EEC  
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**Review Markings:**  
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